



COMMUNITY & EDUCATION NEWS



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Now offering AMEP

Going from strength to strength

– Chair's Report 2016/17 –

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2016-17 Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services Chair's Report. I am delighted to report that Djerriwarrh has performed well in this financial year and has gone from strength to strength.

- Staff numbers have increased.
- Student numbers continue to rise.
- New contracts have been won and others renewed.
- Our geographic locations have expanded.
- The number of partners we work with has increased.

It was challenging for the organisation with the notification of the early termination of a 5 year contract at year end 2017 for Work for the Dole Coordinator Services. However it was pleasing to be notified of the contract renewal and expansion of the SEE (Skills for Education and Employment) program and of winning the AMEP (Adult Migrant Education Program) for the first time across three employment regions. With all of this change comes opportunity in the form of new contracts, new roles and responsibilities, new staff and a changing competitive landscape.

Financially the organisation performed strongly. Having a second year of surplus enabled investment and growth in our people and accommodations. In March 2017 the Djerriwarrh leadership team and the board participated in facilitated planning sessions the result of which produced our updated strategic plan for the organisation focused on the period 2017-20. Our vision for "Self-reliant people, strong communities" and our approach of "Learn, Connect, Grow" guide all of our discussions and decisions.

I would like to express the Board's appreciation to Chief Executive Officer, Trish Heffernan, and her management team, for their continued, excellent work.

To all Djerriwarrh staff, thank you for your wonderful efforts in delivering a wide range of services to all of the communities that we serve. Your passion, motivation and loyalty in advancing the

educational and support opportunities for our clients are of the highest standard.

To our stakeholders and partners, I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and assistance. Fostering partnerships with a range of community stakeholders is essential to the success of our service and we will continue to develop these partnerships now and well into the future.

Finally to each Director (old and new), I would like to extend my appreciation and recognise your valuable contribution to Djerriwarrh, not only in terms of your personal skills and experiences, but also the expertise you bring to the Board.

Once again I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with the whole team at Djerriwarrh and look forward to seeing the continued growth and successes attained in the coming year ahead.

Ian Pearce

Grant success

In 2016-2017, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services was successful in two grant applications which will complement our existing programs. Grants allow Djerriwarrh to extend current programs and services in areas where there is an identified need.

Melton City Council Libraries in partnership with Djerriwarrh successfully applied for an Adult Literacy Innovation Program grant from the Victorian Public Library Services. This grant aims to help Victorian public libraries build their capacity to support community members with low literacy skills by developing strong community partnerships and innovative resources and programs.

The funds are being used to develop resources introducing adults with low literacy to their local library. The project steering group includes representatives from Melton City Council, Djerriwarrh and Melton South Community Centre.

Djerriwarrh's second successful grant application was to the Adult Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board for round nine of their Capacity and Innovation Fund. These grants are open to Learn Locals across Victoria.

The goal for this grant is to develop a parenting and personal development program for young mothers in Melton, that will help them to become better parents, engage socially, develop confidence and ultimately reconnect with education, training or work. The program will be co-designed in collaboration with the young mums, with the goal that this will ensure it is relevant to them and addresses their needs. This program will be delivered over the 2017-2018.

Kathleen Parer



Visit www.djerriwarrh.org.au for the latest **course information**

<h2>VISION</h2> <p>Self-reliant people, strong communities.</p>	<h2>MISSION</h2> <p>Our Approach LEARN, CONNECT, GROW We are a leading not for profit community organisation, providing high quality learning, engagement and employment opportunities for our local communities.</p>	<p>Supporting individuals and the local community to learn, connect and grow.</p> <p>We do this by:</p> <div><div><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Offering lifelong learning, education, training, learning pathways and youth services.2. Supporting individuals and families to engage with local communities and settle into the broader community.3. Connecting, responding and adapting to community needs.</div><div><ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Continuous improvement and co-designing programs/activities with local communities.5. Partnering with other organisations.6. Staff as a community of learners connected to professional networks and best practice.</div></div>
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Supporting individuals and the local community to learn, connect and grow

– CEO’s Report –

In 2016-2017, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services continued to consolidate services resulting in high performing teams and a surplus for the second consecutive year.

The Djerriwarrh Board developed a new strategic plan for 2017-2020 with input from staff and the leadership team. While the vision, ‘Self-reliant people, strong communities’, remained the same, the mission changed to ‘Supporting individuals and the local community to learn, connect and grow’, reflecting Djerriwarrh’s core focus and purpose for the communities it serves.

In 2016-2017, Djerriwarrh commenced the new program Reconnect, Engage and Learning Support funded by the Department of Education and Training (Victorian). This program was established in response to a decline in the number of young, early school leavers enrolling in foundation skills and vocational education and training programs. In 2017, Djerriwarrh was notified that it was also successful with its submission for Skills First Reconnect funding to commence in 2017-2018. Skills First Reconnect will provide wrap-around services, such as extra literacy, health and accommodation support for eligible disadvantaged learners.

Djerriwarrh, in partnership with WCIG and Wyndham Community & Education Centre, formed west@work in 2016-2017 which was contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver specialist employment services for both employers and jobseekers as part of Jobs Victoria.

Djerriwarrh was successful in an application for a one-year contract for Skills First funding in 2017 which is also through the Department of Education and Training. From 1 January 2017 we expanded VCAL from two to three groups responding to community interest and need in Melton.

In April 2017, Djerriwarrh was notified of the successful outcome of the application for the delivery of Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) and the Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) to commence from 1 July 2017. Djerriwarrh, trading as Learning for Employment (LfE), retained Western Melbourne, North West Melbourne and

Barwon for SEE and expanded into Inner Melbourne and Ballarat Regions. For the delivery of AMEP, LfE will be delivering in Western Metropolitan Region, Barwon Region and Ballarat Region. Djerriwarrh is fortunate to have committed and experienced partners for the delivery of SEE and AMEP. They are Comm Unity Plus, Laverton Community Integrated Services, WCIG, Wyndham Community & Education Centre, Williamstown Community Education Centre and Yarraville Community Centre.

Djerriwarrh was notified in May 2017 of success in Round 9 of the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board Capacity and Innovation Fund for the Young Mums and Bubs – Co designing Futures program which commenced in July 2017.

It was extremely disappointing and frustrating to be notified in May 2017 that the Work for the Dole Coordinator Services would cease 31 December 2017, two and a half years into a five-year contract, as a consequence of the Federal Government’s 2017-2018 budget. The Work for the Dole Coordinator Services team is a high performing team effectively supporting hosts and jobactives whilst identifying and assessing new work for the dole opportunities.

Thank you to all staff for your commitment to Djerriwarrh and for working diligently to provide high quality training, youth and employment services for our community members. Thank you to the following managers for their thoughtful leadership and support: Anita Cutler; Roma Pedersen; Maree Morgan; and, Patricia Sacco.

Thank you to our many partners. Without partnerships we wouldn’t be in a position to offer the range of services that we do. Programs that we currently deliver in partnership include: SEE; Springboard; Reconnect, Engage and Learning Support; Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN); and, School Focussed Youth Services.

Thank you to our volunteers for their support and contribution to our work.

And finally thank you to the Djerriwarrh Board for their support in my role as CEO and for their leadership of the organisation.

Trish Heffernan

Would you like to work in hospitality?

Have you considered being a barista, working in a café or serving alcohol? Are you interested in the flexibility that hospitality work can offer?

Djerriwarrh offers courses in Food Handling, Barista Skills, Responsible Service of Alcohol and more. Classes are held in our commercial kitchen teaching space and taught by respected industry professionals.

For more information please call: Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services on (03)8746 1000.

Would you like to improve your English?

Did you know Djerriwarrh offers a range English classes? Improving your English can help you to talk to a doctor or to your child’s school teacher. It can help you to communicate with government agencies such as Medicare or Centrelink. Better English can help you to access training or get a job.

Djerriwarrh can also help English students to create pathways to industry accredited training that is recognised by employers.

For more information please call: Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services on (03) 8746 1000.

OUR CORE VALUES

- CARING**
We provide a safe and supportive environment
- RESPECTFUL**
We treat all people fairly and equally
- INCLUSIVE**
We welcome all and put people first
- ADAPTABLE**
We respond to individual and community needs in creative and flexible ways

ACCOUNTABLE
We take responsibility for our decisions and follow through on our commitments

Jobs Victoria

Jobs Victoria is a Victorian Government funded program that assists people who are facing significant barriers to employment. Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services delivers Jobs Victoria services in a consortium with WCIG and Wyndham Community & Education Centre. The consortium works under the west@work brand.

Jobs Victoria participation is completely voluntary, unlike the typical federal employment services model which has mandatory job search requirements and mutual obligations associated with Newstart allowance. People registering with Jobs Victoria genuinely want to work.

Some of the things Djerriwarrh's Jobs Victoria service does are:

- We give appropriate tailored job seeking assistance and vocational support to people who are disengaged or not eligible for federal employment services.
- We add value to the federally funded jobactives that assist job seekers to find work and also offer post placement work support.
- We act as a single unbiased point of contact for both small and large employers when hiring staff. We can access a large pool of available jobseekers and can help employers with recruiting large numbers of staff.
- We offer financial assistance and help jobseekers to buy items they may need for employment or to increase their employability.

west@work's main purpose and mantra is *local jobs for local people* which always remains at the core of what we do. For many of our clients, getting into stable ongoing employment is life changing.

Tyron Bravo



Connecting work ready jobseekers to the construction industry

Nahom has come a long way in 2017. He came to Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services in February because of a friend's recommendation. At that time he had a two year gap in his work history and minimal work experience since arriving in Australia. Now he has a construction White Card, ongoing stable employment and a place in an apprenticeship where he is able to complete a Certificate III in Construction. When I asked Nahom how he felt he told me, 'Work is good. It is better than just sitting at home.' He also proudly pointed out the red car he has bought since starting his job. 'I can afford to buy

things now, and I've told at least five of my friends about Djerriwarrh.'

Nahom registered with Djerriwarrh's west@work program in February 2017 and began studying the Certificate II in Community Services at Djerriwarrh. He was hoping to work as a Health Services Assistant but still needed help with interview skills and preparation for being in a workplace.

Djerriwarrh's west@work Recruitment Specialist, Tyron Bravo, provided case management to Nahom. west@work helped Nahom to purchase work and interview clothes, and assisted with Myki and

fuel costs. Tyron helped Nahom with his motivation, self-confidence and job-seeking skills.

Tyron explored various options with Nahom, and when he talked about Victoria's construction boom Nahom mentioned that his father had worked in construction in Ethiopia. Nahom had prior experience working with his father and was interested in work in this area.

Because of west@work's existing relationship with Winslow Civil Contractors, Tyron was able to discuss Nahom's good character, engagement and desire for an opportunity. Winslow interviewed Nahom and with his previous construction

experience in Ethiopia and enthusiasm, he was offered ongoing work. west@work assisted Nahom to get his construction White Card and he is now in stable ongoing employment as a labourer. He is also enrolled in a Certificate III in Construction with his employer, which gives him an opportunity to progress in the future.

Kathleen Parer



Jobs Victoria – west@work data

Since January 2017



EDUCATION AND TRAINING The Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program

SEE what our students write about SEE



Learning for Employment and SEE

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services as lead of the Learning for Employment (Lfe) Consortium which has delivered Skills for Education & Employment (SEE) since 2002.

Lfe members include: Comm Unity Plus, Djerriwarrh, Laverton Community Integrated Services, WCIG, Williamstown Community and Education Centre, Wyndham Community & Education Centre and Yarraville Community Centre. The SEE program assists eligible jobseekers to improve their language,

literacy and numeracy skills for education and employment in either part or full time training. SEE is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. During the 2016-17 financial year Lfe members delivered SEE classes in the Westgate, Geelong and Calder contract regions assisting 1,939

jobseekers. Djerriwarrh assisted 587 of these clients at the Melton and Sunshine sites. After an exhaustive tender process we were pleased to announce that Learning for Employment was awarded contracts to expand Lfe delivery of the SEE program and to commence delivery of the Adult Migrant English

Program (AMEP) from 1 July 2017. The AMEP offers 510 hours of free English tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants and is also funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Kirsti Campbell-Gillingham



Pathway from SEE to a qualification and a job

When you want to do something have a goal, don't give up and encourage yourself. Don't think that you can't do it. English is very important for life in Australia. You will be proud if you can speak for yourself not using an interpreter.

When Onanong studied English in Thailand she hated it. Her Thai friends think it is funny that now she lives in Australia and speaks English every day! Onanong arrived in Australia in 2011 and started the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program at Djerriwarrh in 2014. She had done a Diploma of Marketing in Thailand and had worked in that area. 'I realised that I had to improve my English to get a better job in Australia. I thought I had finished studying but I had to start again in English'. Verbal communication was really difficult for Onanong.

Conversation was hard and she had trouble with Australian slang. She said that when someone asked how she was going, she wondered why they wanted know where she was going. When someone asked what she wanted for tea, she said hot chocolate because she doesn't like tea. She also had no confidence using the phone and worried a lot about whether she was using the right grammar. Onanong continued to work hard in her SEE class and practiced English whenever she could. She watched Playschool and cartoons with her young children. 'You can improve your English by watching movies and TV or listening to music,' she says. When she completed her SEE studies, her teacher suggested a Certificate II in English as an Additional Language (EAL) as a way to continue to improve her English. She did so well in this that her teacher was

able to put her on a pathway to further work-related training. She is currently completing her third course with Djerriwarrh - the Certificate III in Individual Support, Ageing. Djerriwarrh has been able to take Onanong from beginning her English studies right through to industry approved vocational training. Onanong completed a work placement at Willowbrae Aged Care in Melton as a part of her course and Willowbrae have asked to see her CV as soon as she has finished her studies. Her teacher Stanley says she is a 'diligent, intelligent, hard working student who prides herself on perfection!' Her ultimate goal is to work in community care. She would like to care for people who are living in their own homes. She hopes she will be able to do this work within school hours so she can be there for her children.

Kathleen Parer

Work for the Dole success

Work for the Dole Coordinator Services had an extremely successful 12 months meeting all Key Performance Indicators and engaging new hosts along the way. Work for the Dole places job seekers in activities where they gain skills and experience that can help them find a job while giving back to the community. During 2016-2017, Djerriwarrh Work for the Dole Coordinators had 228 activities with 2,296 places available for referral. One of the highlights for the year was the creation of Djerriwarrh's promotional

Work for the Dole video which featured three of our local host organisations. The video is currently on Djerriwarrh's website www.djerriwarrh.org.au On 10 May 2017, as a result of Federal Budget cuts, we were informed that the Work for the Dole Coordinator Services contract would cease on 31 December 2017, two and a half years into a five-year contract. This will be a great loss to Djerriwarrh.

Roma Pedersen



School Focused Youth Service

School Focused Youth Service works with and supports schools in Melton and Brimbank municipalities to plan and deliver high quality support locally for young people aged 10-18 years who are attending school, but are vulnerable to, or showing signs of disengagement.

Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services delivers School Focused Youth Service (SFYS) in partnership with Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand and is funded by Department of Education and Training (Victoria).

In the past year SFYS has continued to develop and further strengthen working partnerships with the schools across the Brimbank and Melton area. SFYS has assisted in the implementation of a range of strategies to enhance student engagement including

supporting the transition from primary to secondary school.

A focus group of one of the interventions, Hands on Learning Café Program, highlighted the positive impact that the SFYS program had for the participating students.

The students reported that the program made people happy. It allowed the students to;

- gain experience for the future;
- learn new skills;
- talk to others they wouldn't normally talk to; and,
- gain confidence.

Matthew Bignoux

COMMUNITY HOUSE PARTICIPANTS COME FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND CULTURES

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a national celebration held on March 21 and a key event in the Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services calendar. It is a time to celebrate the diversity of the Djerriwarrh community – both students and staff.

This year all classes were involved in the lead up to the day. Everyone was given the opportunity to reflect upon what 'harmony' means to them. Students and staff were all given the opportunity to depict this either in words or by pictures on postcards. All of this work culminated in the development of the Djerriwarrh Harmony Wall, in our main building at Melton. Our VCAL students were very involved in the day not only contributing to the Harmony Wall but also hosting a shared BBQ lunch and activities. Our students were encouraged to bring in cultural artefacts which were on display during the shared lunch. We were also treated to some music and singing from our students' home countries

and many students wore their traditional dress. All in all Harmony Day was a successful event that was larger than the day itself. The lead up and the reflection that took place was a wonderful opportunity to appreciate and value diversity.

Renae Knight



'Harmony day is a day where we all come together and forget our differences and love and respect each other because we are all one.'

Student

EDUCATION & TRAINING SKILLS FIRST

64 students completed their full certificates

In 2016-2017 there were 158 enrolments into Vocational Education and Training courses in Melton and Sunshine. To date 64 students have completed their full certificates with a further 61 students in the process of completing in the 2017-2018 year. Courses include Certificate II & III in English

as an Additional Language (EAL), Certificate II in Community Services, Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, Certificate III in Education Support and Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing). Accredited training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government

funding under the Higher Education Skills Group (HESG) and fee for service. Djerriwarrh also offers Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and a Barista Training and Food Handling course. In 2016-2017, 111 people completed the RSA and 20 people completed the Barista/ Food Handling course.

Maree Morgan

ACFE Expanded range of English classes



As a Learn Local, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services offers pre-accredited courses funded by the Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board. Learners in the Melton community are keen to participate in these courses. Over the year, Djerriwarrh has offered a range of courses including computers, English, office administration and hospitality.

At the start of 2017 Djerriwarrh expanded the range of English classes providing English language learners further opportunities to continue to improve their language, literacy and numeracy skills. Classes introduced included English for Community Services, English in the Kitchen and English for Life Skills. From these courses learners can pathway to further study, accredited training and/or employment.

Renae Knight

A successful year of the L2P program

Djerriwarrh runs the L2P program in the local government areas of Melton and Moorabool and the program is supported by VicRoads and the TAC. Where a young

person has no-one to supervise their driving practice, or no car to practice in, the L2P program matches them with a mentor who can provide the required 120 hours of supervised driving practice in Djerriwarrh's L2P cars. With limited local public transport, having a licence means a young person has greater options for work and education as well as social opportunities.

In partnership with Melton City and Moorabool Shire Councils, this year L2P has supported:

- 38 volunteer mentor drivers who delivered 1,915 hours of supervised driving
- 70 young people who were mentored in L2P across Melton and Moorabool
- 21 learner drivers who achieved their probationary driving licence

Since the commencement of L2P in September 2009, 120 learner drivers have been successfully mentored to achieve their probationary licences.

Djerriwarrh would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors whose support contributes to the success of our L2P program; Melton Toyota, Harrison Hyundai, Bacchus Marsh Rotary, Victoria Police, IMO Car Wash Melton and Bunnings Melton.

Kim Leech

L2P mentor and City of Melton

Woman of the Year for 2017

Long time L2P mentor Joy Lawn was awarded the Woman of the Year in the City of Melton's Community Achievement Awards given out on Australia Day 2017.

Joy has been a mentor in Djerriwarrh's L2P program since 2009 and a volunteer in other community activities since 1974. Joy has contributed over 1,000 hours of mentoring young drivers and supported 9 young learner drivers to their licences. L2P Project Officer Kim Leech, who has worked with Joy for many years, nominated her for the award.

'I feel so proud and privileged to be thought of' said Joy when asked how she felt.

As an L2P mentor Joy has been a significant adult in the lives of 16 disenfranchised

young people. One particular learner driver, 'Casey', lived with her elderly grandmother. She was studying Aged Care in Melton and was offered a job in Sunbury which involved night shift work. Joy structured L2P drives around Casey's work shifts in Sunbury involving many late evening drives, supporting her to 120 hours of driving and then to her licence. Casey later went on to gain full employment with the agency. She appreciated Joy's support and mentoring so much that Casey expressed interest in being an L2P mentor herself



after completing her probationary licence. Joy and Casey still regularly meet for lunch.

Kathleen Parer

L2P LEARNER DRIVER MENTOR PROGRAM

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING



Caption: xxxxxxxxx

VCAL program expanding

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is an alternative to VCE for young people wishing to complete year 11 and 12. Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services' VCAL program is offered to young people 15-19 years of age.

2017 has been a big year in VCAL. We expanded our program to three classes, Foundation, Intermediate and Senior, and increased our enrolments from 43 in the 2016 to 58 in 2017. We also expanded our venues so each class spends one day per week at Melton Youth Services. This allows us to use Melton Youth Services' equipment and also build connections with the services offered there.

The VCAL class' learning this year has focussed on how the students fit (and would like to fit) into the world. The classes have gone on many excursions which have exposed the students to different experiences outside the classroom, outside Melton, and outside their comfort zones. The students have visited the Immigration Museum, Marngoneet Prison to interview prisoners, the Old Melbourne Goal and the Jewish Holocaust Centre. The students have also visited careers fairs to allow them to explore ideas for their future and to show them alternative career paths.

We have also had many groups come in to talk to our VCAL students. Bully Zero Australia and the Crime Prevention & Reassurance Support Officer from the Caroline Springs Police both

spoke to our students about bullying and introduced them to the bystander approach. There was a talk by Djerriwarrh Health Services about respectful relationships and sexual health and another by StreetShot about Hepatitis C. Youthlaw came in to teach the students about their rights and the Fit 2 Drive and Be Prepared programs were about driving safely.

The VCAL class also got involved in a number of community projects with groups including Melton World of Learning Childcare and Early Education Centre, Sutton Park Aged Care Facility and Linking Melton South Pop Up Services.

Throughout the year all VCAL classes have run cafes. The students prepare and sell food which enables them to develop useful skills in the kitchen, gain work experience and have an opportunity to raise funds. VCAL organised a Harmony Day barbecue and an R U OK Day afternoon tea for all other Djerriwarrh classes and staff. The senior class raised the money for their VCAL jumpers this year.

I am very proud of Djerriwarrh's VCAL program and how our students have engaged in their learning and taken responsibility for their futures. We continue to grow and have a large number of students graduating this year. I would like to thank everybody that has supported the VCAL class particularly classroom volunteers Julie Madin, Kirin (Harkiran Kaur Sandhu) and Rosabella Oli.

Lisa Macheras

YOUTH SERVICES SPRINGBOARD PROGRAM

Springboard program sets sights on gold!

Ashleigh and Tanisha, are supported by Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services' youth workers Anita and Juicenta, as a part of the Springboard program. Springboard supports young people from the ages of 16 to 21 years who are currently in Out of Home Care or have experienced time in Residential Care. Springboard works with young people to create pathways to further studies or employment and is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. Djerriwarrh delivers this program in a consortium with WCIG and IMVC in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Earlier this year Ashleigh, Tanisha, Anita and Juicenta went on an adventure to the Central Deborah Gold Mine in Bendigo. 'We all geared up in

overalls, boots, miners' hats and lamps, before descending to the third level of the mine, 85 metres underground. During our visit we climbed ladders, worked a real mine drill and explored tunnels that contained real gold veins. We searched high and low for our own gold because we were told we could keep it if we found any. We finished the tour with a traditional miner's lunch served

in the underground function room. The traditional miners' pasty is half meat and veg, half apple pie... and 100% delicious!' The journey allowed both young people to build confidence, and they proved to themselves that if they put their mind to a task, they can achieve it... or anything!

Juicenta Gunning



Tanisha, Ashleigh, Anita and Juicenta



Reconnect: Supporting young people to re-engage with education or employment

Reconnect: Engagement and Learner Support (Reconnect) Grants Program is a Victorian State Government program that aims to support young people to re-engage with education or employment. Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services provide Reconnect across the local government areas of Melton, Brimbank and Maribyrnong in partnership with Yarraville Community Centre. Reconnect Coaches work with and support eligible young people into education or employment.

Trent* had not attended school for a period of twelve months due to a range of barriers including significant past trauma, homelessness and caring for a family member with severe mental health illness. When Trent approached Reconnect, he was squatting in an abandoned house where food was limited with no electricity or running water. He faced huge barriers but he worked with his Reconnect Coach and began planning for a course that would lead him to employment. The Reconnect Coach and team worked together with local agencies to support Trent and his family member.

Food, water, clothing and blankets were donated and Trent enrolled into a Certificate IV in Construction which he attended on a daily basis. Unfortunately, Trent and the family member he cared for were evicted from the home they were squatting in and spent several nights on the streets in Melton. The Reconnect Coach and team worked closely with Yarra housing and Trent and the family member secured temporary emergency accommodation. Homelessness impacted on Trent’s ability to attend the construction course and he was falling behind. Djerriwarrh liaised with Hope

Street Youth and Family Services regarding a housing vacancy for Trent. The application was completed and Trent was successful in securing his first long term home. He moved into Hope Street recently and the family member he was caring for is now receiving support through adult services. Trent has settled into his new home where he feels safe and secure and has returned to education. Trent will finish his Certificate IV in construction at the end of 2017.

Tegan Pain

*This young person’s name and some details have been changed to protect their privacy.

Djerriwarrh acknowledge financial support from

- Department of Education & Training (Australian)
- Department of Employment
- Adult, Community & Further Education
- Department of Education & Training (Victorian)
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources
- Department of Health & Human Services
- City of Melton
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Thank you to our Volunteers

- Admin Volunteer**
Yi Yun GONG
- Neighbourhood House Volunteer**
Evelyn MEIJER
- Classroom Volunteers**
Asero NUGMA
Jessica MAINO
David BULINSKI
Harkiran Kaur SANDHU
Rosabella OLI
Melissa BILAL
Julie MADIN

Thank You

Thank you to all the organisations that supported Djerriwarrh students on work experience or work placement.

Consortium Members and Partners

Brimbank Melton Local Learning and Employment Network, Comm Unity Plus, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, Hope Street, IMVC, Laverton Community Integrated Services, Melbourne City Mission, Melton City Council, Melton South Community Centre, Melton Specialist School, Merrimu Services, Preston Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE), Shire of Moorabool, WCIG, Western Health, Williamston Community and Education Centre, Wyndham Community & Education Centre, Yarraville Community Centre, YouthNow, Western BACE, Winslow and Woodlea.

Staff

- Shahed AHMED, Jennifer ANDISON, Lana ARANDT, Hakan AY, Sara AYGUR, Sonia BABIC, Clare BLACKMAN, Samantha BODEN, Leslie BOONEKAMP, Diane BOURAS, Tyron BRAVO, Leigh BURGOYNE, Kirsti CAMPBELL, Rhiannon CARASSELLOS, Lyndell CLARK, Hannah CLARKE, Anita CUTLER, Carolyn CUTT, Ozlen DANIELLS, Catherine DANIELS, Jane DAWSON, Sariah DAWSON, Stuart DEAGAN, Hannelore DECAT, Edita DIDIC, Helen DOBSON, Peter DORAN, Abraham DUNOVITS, Heidi FRANKL, Anita GARY, Heather GLOVER, Kate GRANG, Christine GRIFFITHS, Juicenta GUNNING, Andrew HADDEN, Caryl HALLWORTH-McFADDEN, Simon HARRIS, Hayley HAUGH, Gerard HEALY, Trish HEFFERNAN, Paul HOBBY, Tracey HORNER, Shamima ISLAM, Amy JAMES, Lea JOHNSON, Annie JOSEPH, Veena KARLEKAR, Sarah KELLY, Renae KNIGHT, Kim LEECH, Lisa MACHERAS, Sanam MANER, Georgia MARTIN, Lee MARTIN, Nicole McCARTHY, Melanie McGRATH, Anita MEREDITH, Maree MORGAN, Julia MORTELLARO, Michelle NADREZ, Natalie NAWROCKI, Keely NGUYEN, Marcella O’CONNOR, Talia OKTEN, Sona OMMEN, Amatullah OMRAN, Stanley OPARA, Stacey OSBORNE, Adele OUSLINIS, Tegan PAIN, Kathleen PARER, Sheema PASHA-BOUZAS, Roma PEDERSEN, Kristina PINTI, Tricia PRIEST, Wazih RAZIB, Leslee REES, Belinda RIMMER, Naomi RIVERS, Andrew ROBERTSON, Lyn ROBSON, Sharon ROSS, Patricia SACCO, Catherine SANDOW, John SHACKLOCK, Shamala SUBRAMANIAN, Margaret TOOHEY, Lucy TRAN, Rosie TRAN, Zorica TUMBAS, Hayrettin UYAR, Michael WANTAMA, Linda WELLS, Erin WINCHESTER, Jennifer WOJCICKI, Janice YANO, Gulsen YELEC and Ilkay YILMAZ.

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Our friendly staff are here to help

Melton – Head Office
239 Station Road,
Melton VIC 3337
T: (03) 8746 1000
E: info@djerriwarrh.org

Sunshine
266 Hampshire Road, Sunshine
VIC 3020
T: (03) 9009 7900
E: info@djerriwarrh.org

